Title: Urged the Government to accord due status and recognition to the Tamil Language.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Hon''ble Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise an important matter for urgent consideration of the Government to accord due recognition to our ancient Indian language and my mother tongue Tamil and I fervently hope my colleagues in this august House would join me in focussing our attention to get Tamil, the ancient and classical language spoken in many parts of the world its due status at a time when we enter the new millenium.

I would like to impress upon the Government through this august House that the ensuing year 2000 should be declared as ''year of Tamil language'' in the same way as we observe the current year as ''year of Sanskrit language''. I urge upon the Government to take urgent steps in this regard.

Tamil is also one among the ancient and classical languages of the world like Pali, Greek, Latin, Hebrew and Chinese languages. Our ancient Tamil language has an age old literary tradition and has a vast mass of rich literature down the ages. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to declare Tamil as a classical language and Union Government needs to accord due status to this ancient language of this soil without any further delay.

I fervently appeal to all the members of this House with a hope that not only my fellow members from Tamil Nadu but also all the members of this august House would join me in taking up this matter for urgent consideration of the Union Government. With this, I conclude. Thank you.

---

*Translation of speech originally delivered in Tamil.

&nbs